

Uxbridge train station subject of documentary

Premiere public screening
being held June 21

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UXBRIDGE — A Toronto filmmaker has turned his train of thought toward a piece of history in Uxbridge.

And the end result of a year of filming has resulted in 'The Story of Uxbridge Station', a 30-minute documentary by Wanted Media, with the premiere public screening to hit the Music Hall on Saturday, June 21, at 7 p.m. Admission to the initial screening is free, said Mark Magro, director.

"Trains changed the landscape of Canada. Countless stories have been told and historical books have been written about the important people and events that helped create the railway. What about the contributions of one small town and its citizens?" noted Mr. Magro of the film. "The (documentary) depicts Uxbridge's landscape through this time of creation. It also explores the stories of individuals who developed the Uxbridge railway."

The 24-year-old director/producer/historian said he was drawn to the train idea when searching for new topics to film following the completion of a 2007 film entitled 'Cedar Mains Farm: A Forgotten Landscape', about "the clash of mandates between the Toronto Region Conservation Authority and Heritage Caledon when it comes to preserving structures versus landscapes."

He said he "came across some interesting photographs of the Uxbridge train station. What immediately captured my attention was the unique roof style called the 'witch's hat'. I noticed it was one of the few witch's hat roofs left in Ontario; this made me want to find out more."

To create the film, Mr. Magro said he consulted "a lot of people" including Allan McGillivray, former curator of the Uxbridge Museum. He said he also worked alongside Councillor Pat Mikuse, chairwoman of Uxbridge tourism, and the York-Durham Heritage Railway, which currently utilizes the station.

The budget to create the Uxbridge documentary was \$4,000, which is low for a film of this scope, he said, adding "cooperation, motivation and passion" were the keys to completing the project.

He expects to break even on the film. "I didn't do (the station documentary) for money, but I want to make a career out of (making films)," he said. There will be DVDs of the train station movie sold at the June 21 screening for \$15 each, which will help cover costs of production, said Mr. Magro.

Although the initial train film hasn't yet been viewed by the public, Mr. Magro is already thinking sequel. The second installment will likely be a "commentary on transportation systems in rural communities," said Mr. Magro. As for part one, Mr. Magro hopes to "show it on television and submit it to film festivals."

The director also recently completed a documentary about Nonquon Island (also known as Seven Mile Island), which premiered in Port Perry last month. "The turnout was good," he said.



Brent Tremain, left, and Mark Magro shoot film of the York-Durham Heritage Railway train near Goodwood.



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